



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## BRIEF NOTES

### *The British General Staff Maps*

Few recent aids to the orientalist equal in importance the new British General Staff Maps which have now reached Persia and are rapidly being extended eastward. Shortly before the Great War, the cartographers of the various civilized nations agreed to issue the sheets of a handy working map, to be published by the surveys of staffs of their respective governments, on the scale of one to the million. At the outbreak of the war, but few sheets had been issued and therefore the geographical section of the British General Staff decided to undertake the task alone. The work has been done in haste and the sheets are not free from error, but they fill a serious gap and will form the basis of a world series of the utmost value.

The professed orientalist may be discouraged at the first glance. The scale is nearly seventeen times smaller than the inch to the mile map of Palestine made by the Ordnance Survey and two and a half times smaller than the Kiepert's Kleinasien, but the new map is not intended to take the place of such. No attempt is made to list all place names, in fact, there has been deliberate exclusion with the purpose of keeping the map clear. The archaeologist will accordingly miss the majority of ruined sites in which lies his chief interest. He will also regret a general principle, which we hope will be modified in a later and definitive issue, of giving only the official nomenclature, for, especially in the so-called Turkish speaking regions, to give the official nomenclature is to give Turkish corruptions of earlier names which are, in the majority, better known by their native forms to English-speaking peoples.

To the general student, its superlative value will be found in its representation of relief. For the first time, much of the Near East is contoured. To a certain extent, contours, even in color, have been attempted several times for Palestine, and we should not forget the excellent little map of Asia Minor, in reality covering the whole of Kiepert's territory, by J. G. C. Anderson in the Murray series of classical maps edited by G. B. Grundy. The sheets are sold in two sets, one with the contours indicated

by the brown lines so familiar to us in the maps of our own Geological Survey, the other with the contours in colors and so much easier to understand quickly. Other natural features are given, as a rule, in minute detail and are the more easily grasped as they are not hidden by the mass of comparatively unimportant place names. The eastern sheets, notably the Tabriz and Baghdad ones, are full of new data, especially along the Turko-Persian frontier, delimited just before the outbreak of the war. As the series moves eastward and southward, this characteristic may be expected to increase in value.

Every orientalist who has wrestled with the problem of making oriental spelling as little repulsive as possible to the non-specialist and yet keeping as closely as may be to the correct transliteration, must protest vigorously against one backward step taken by the editors, who have made two letters grow where was one before by representing the well known sound, correctly represented by our *j*, as *dj*. Another sound, so we are told, found in Russian, is represented in the maps by *j*, and as to give *j* to the oriental *j* would cause confusion, orientalist seem doomed to be saddled with *dj*! Such procedure is contrary to the principles laid down by the British War Office and the Geographical Society, and seems to have been accepted largely if not entirely because of the usage of the British Museum.

The purpose of this notice would not be secured if it gave the impression of futility in map making. What we have is frankly a provisional edition, subject to change after the war. Under present circumstances, what we need most is not a complete repository of cartographical information for reference but a series of maps which at a glance shows what the general physiographic aspect of the country is and which can rapidly correlate history and geography, not the least the history and the political geography which are now in the making. For such a purpose, nothing can take the place of the General Staff maps.

A. T. OLMSTEAD

University of Illinois